

THE INDEPENDENT

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F. J. TESTA, Proprietor and Publisher.

EDMUND NORRIS, Editor.
Residing in Honolulu.

TUESDAY, JAN. 8, 1901.

WILCOX IN WASHINGTON.

The frantic efforts of George Gear, the attorney for the Loebenstein-Kepoikai combination, to unseat Robert Wilcox, the Delegate for Hawaii to Congress, do not evidently worry the representative of the Territory, who smiles serenely and writes to us that the antics of Gear, Moreno & Company are simply considered a piece of low blackmailing. We should imagine that the bigamy rot would have been dropped by this time, but Mr. Gear, on behalf of Loebenstein, keeps up the fight and both are, of course, willing to drop all attacks on Wilcox if the influence of the Delegate could be used to secure the coveted circuit judgeship for Gear and the entree to West Point for Mr. Loebenstein's son. There is one thing we all must admit in regard to Wilcox. During his motley political career he has never been known to be for sale nor has he ever been known to peel on a pal. We realize his many faults but we give him credit where credit is due him, and the Gear-Loebenstein-Kepoikai combination will learn that they struck the wrong man if they thought they could scare Wilcox into making a bargain.

Moreno's stand is on par with the political past of the miserable old fraud. Before Wilcox was elected Moreno in the Washington Bee blackguarded him in a most ferocious manner, and the Bee took up the Moreno cue and joined in the abuse. Moreno charged Wilcox with fraud and swindle, and accused him of robbing his benefactor, Moreno, as well as Queen Liliuokalani. He swore by all the greasy Italian gods that Wilcox should never take a seat in Congress, and the Bee echoed "Never." Wilcox was elected and in due time appeared at Washington. Wilcox as delegate is quite a different man to Wilcox the candidate with a slim chance of being elected—in the minds of Moreno and the Bee. Moreno saw visions of a share in the fat salary of a Delegate and the very comfortable mileage fee, and a change came over his dreams. This is what Moreno says in the Bee:

"The cowardly attack that has been made on Mr. Robert W. Wilcox, by his political enemies will do more to help than to injure him.

"There is no man in the world more friendly to the oppressed and his people than Mr. Wilcox. The slimy protest that has been filed through the instrumentality of the defeated candidates for his place will have no effect at all. The attempt to draw the color line is cowardly and unjustifiable so far as Mr. Wilcox is concerned."

The Bee editorially devotes one and a half columns in eulogizing the new colored messiah whom the oppressed Hawaiians have sent to Washington, where the Bee and its large colored clientele are absolutely at the disposal of that staunch defender of his race, his country and all lofty principles, Robert W. Wilcox.

Let us imagine for a moment that the imbeciles who seem determined to ruin the Republican party had succeeded in unseating Wilcox,

what would have been the results? what would have been gained? Wilcox would have returned to Hawaii. He would in due time enter the field as candidate for Delegate, and he would be elected not by a majority of a few hundreds but by a majority of thousands. We doubt that Colonel Parker would accept a nomination to run against Wilcox, and we feel sure that no Democratic candidate would appear, and that the majority of votes cast for Prince David would be given to Wilcox. In the meantime Hawaii would be without a representative in Congress, which perhaps would not be of great moment at present, as Wilcox writes that Hawaii can expect nothing during the short session, and that we may consider it a great piece of luck if we get a cable.

The silly bigamy charge will of course have no effect on the committee which dealt with the Roberts "trigamy" case. That case was of a very different nature. Roberts avowed that he no longer adhered to the doctrine of polygamy but he declined to abandon his wives, who had, in days gone by, married him according to the doctrines of the Mormon Church and born him children. The first marriage of Wilcox has been annulled by the Pope, and a local paper has published all the documents in connection with the case. The lady who was Mrs. Wilcox was only too glad to get rid of her husband, and he would never have heard from her if he had not suddenly appeared as Delegate to Congress. Whether the domestic relations between Wilcox and his first wife, who, by the way, is no more a princess than is wife No. 2, is none of ours nor Loebenstein's business. We cannot believe that matters are so black as they have been painted. If they were we fail to understand the arrival here, some time ago, of Baron Sobrero, the brother of wife No. 1, and his remaining here as the guest of Wilcox and wife No. 2. The Catholic Church has welcomed Wilcox into its fold, which it would not have done if he was a bigamist; McKinley has officially received Mr. Wilcox and the lady known as Mrs. Wilcox, which he wouldn't have done if Theresa was not the lawful wife of the Delegate. With such stamps of approval on his social and moral standing Wilcox can well afford to laugh at the would be leaders of the Republican party in Hawaii who believe they are the whole shooting match in Washington.

Wilcox writes that he has made enquiries in regard to the using of interpreters in the territorial Legislature and that he learns that the Legislature can provide interpreters for members who do not speak or understand English but wish to express an opinion on any subject, but that all proceedings must be in the English language. That will mean a great loss of time and a prospect that very little will be accomplished during the ninety days the Legislature will be in session.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Mr. McCandless may endeavor to shield Mr. Rowell by assuming the responsibility for the dismissal of Charlie Petersen from the look-out station, the fact remains, however, that there have been unfriendly feelings between the incompetent Rowell and the faithful look out for years, and that Rowell was only too glad to get an opportunity to "fire" Petersen. The merchants and the skippers have faith in Charlie, and they have none in Rowell. As it is their interests which are to be considered they naturally do not feel like submitting to the arbitrary action of boss Rowell and his minion McCandless without registering a vigorous kick. The neglect to signal the Mariposa was a great inconvenience to the public and a decided annoyance to the steamer which was under rush orders. We do not belong to those

who believe that any man ever becomes a necessity in an office. There are of course as good fishes in the sea as out of the sea. But we do believe in holding on to the fish we know is good as long as there is life in him and not experimenting with fishes we know nothing of. Mr. McCandless' appointment has not yet been confirmed by the Senate, and it is doubtful that it will be as long as Rowell remains in office and acts as de facto boss.

The absurd action of the Governor and his cabinet in meeting in conclave to seriously discuss whether a license to sell liquor should be granted to Auli of Wailuku, and to Scott of Makawao will simply result in a change in our liquor laws making it compulsory on the treasury department to issue licenses to whoever applies for it and put up the necessary fee. What in the name of common sense has the Governor and the secretary got to do with liquor licenses any more than they have with tobacco, milk or peddling licenses. Imagine the Governor and his cabinet enter into a serious discussion as to the propriety of allowing Ab Fat on Nubau to sell tobacco under a license or debate for hours whether Pan Wo shall be permitted to peddle cake at Kahikini on Maui. The trouble is that our officials have become so narrow minded from the centralization of power in the family compact that they consider it vital to the welfare of the territory that they, owl like, study all the details of the working of the government machinery from the granting of a beer license to the purchasing of a new hose for an excavator. It is time for the Legislature to place the work of each Department in the hands of the chief of the Department without reference to the Governor and his satellites. Let the issuing of licenses,

etc., become mandatory and there will be an end to red tapeism.

The man Carrington who was to establish a new telephone company in Honolulu has turned out to be a hulk and a fraud. Honolulu has been so often bitten by men of his class that she is wary now and like the burnt child shuns the fire. One thing was illustrated by the encouraging press notes and comments which Carrington received, and that was that any telephone company in opposition to the monopoly now driving the public frantic, will be hailed with the most lively satisfaction by suffering Honolulu.

We could never understand why the names of people who sell adulterated food should not be published. The food inspector is a public official, his reports are public property, and it should certainly not be left to the discretion of the inspector or the Board of Health as to what names should be given to the public and what privileged persons should have their names suppressed. Mr. Shorey will have the support of the whole community in his milk crusade, but we hope he will also keep an eye on other beverages from soda water to hard stuff which in many instances contain ingredients which are harmful to the consumer. The Legislature should amend the law relating to the sale and delivery of adulterated food so as to strike at the principal and not at the servant. The decisions of Judge Wilcox were correct of course when the milk vendors escaped punishment on technicalities, but that possibility could easily be remedied by a change in the laws.

We fully agree with the action of the Board of Health in refusing permission to visit the Lepers Settlement to every newspaper writer

who wishes yellow material for their papers or magazines. The lepers are not a very good advertising card for the islands and the less said about that spot on our fair islands the better. As far as Representative-elect Backley is concerned we think he can be furnished with all the points he may desire through the mail. The intelligent inmates of the Settlement are only too willing to reduce to writing their complaints and grievances, real and imaginary. Mr. Backley will not be troubled with his leper constituents much longer if the Advertiser has its way and induces Congress to ship the lepers to the Philippines. Should the territorial Legislature, anticipating such an outrage, repeal the laws relating to segregation the federal government would probably find some difficulties in carrying out the Advertiser's scheme of forcible deportation. Why doesn't our contemporary advocate the deportation of all consumptives, say, to Alaska? Congress is a Supreme Being according to Advertiser theory, and consumption is a far more dangerous disease than is leprosy.

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